

INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION REPORT

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

This material contains information affecting the National Defense of the United States within the meaning of the Espionage Laws, Title 18, U.S.C. Secs. 793 and 794, the transmission or revelation of which in any manner to an unauthorized person is prohibited by law.

S-E-C-R-E-T

			25X1
COUNTRY	Albania	REPORT	25X1
SUBJECT	Miscellaneous Military, Political and Economic Information	DATE DISTR.	11 March 1955
		NO. OF PAGES	2
DATE OF INFO.		REQUIREMENT NO.	RD 25X1
PLACE ACQUIRED		REFERENCES	
DATE ACQUIRED		This is UNEVALUATED Information	

SOURCE EVALUATIONS ARE DEFINITIVE. APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.

25X1

Morale of the People

1. Morale of the people in Albania is low and living conditions are generally poor. Prostitution and thievery are on the increase. Prisons and forced-labor camps are crowded with political prisoners as well as those convicted of petty crimes. Tuberculosis is rampant, especially among the children, because of poor nourishment and a lack of proper drugs. The few drugs imported from the Soviet Union and Poland are of poor quality.
2. There is an atmosphere of suspicion in Albania. Informers are used by the Government and people distrust each other. A person's every word and action is subject to control. There is even a lack of trust within families. Informing and acts of espionage in favor of the Government are rewarded. The well-known Ethem Chiako, who had been condemned to death for espionage, was later freed for collaborating with the Sigurimi (Albanian Intelligence Service). Chiako is now head of MAPO (State Store) in Tirana.

Political Situation

3. The position of Mehmet Shehu is being strengthened progressively with the help of the Soviets. It is the consensus that Enver Hoxha is living on borrowed time; that he is destined to disappear from circulation as did the former Minister of Interior Koci Xoxe. During the past month and a half, Shehu has been in Bulgaria. The purpose of his visit was allegedly for a commercial agreement and financial assistance for Albania. Actually Shehu was working out a new political and military policy for Albania within the framework of the satellite (military?) alliance with the Soviet Union.

S-E-C-R-E-T

25X1

STATE	EV	X	ARMY	EV	X	NAVY	X	AIR	EV	X	FBI		AEC		USIA	IR1	X	
-------	----	---	------	----	---	------	---	-----	----	---	-----	--	-----	--	------	-----	---	--

(Note: Washington distribution indicated by "X"; Field distribution by "#")

INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION REPORT

S-E-C-R-E-T

25X1

- 2 -

Armed Forces

4. There are approximately 70,000 troops armed and equipped with Soviet equipment. This number includes the police forces. A undetermined number of Albanian army officers and non-commissioned officers have recently returned from the Soviet Union after completing training courses.
5. Near Mount Dajti, in the Tirana area and in the vicinity of the old aqueduct, there is a military camp in which various units i.e., artillery, infantry, motor transport and engineers, are stationed.

In Tirana there are six anti-aircraft artillery pieces located a little above and to the right of the Church of S. Procopio (sic). Ten to twelve anti-aircraft pieces are located behind the Mussulman cemetery. There is an anti-aircraft battery near the military camp at Mount Dajti.

Airforce

7. The Tirana airport has 3 ZISS-type pursuit planes and 2 or 3 STORK-type planes. No regular pattern of air traffic was noted.

Industries

8. The Stalin Textile Combine is about to be completed. Annual production is estimated at 1 million meters of wool and cotton cloth. Modern German machinery (with Soviet trade-marks) has been installed in the combine but it is not being used very efficiently because of a lack of skilled technicians. The combine employs about 1,500 workers.
9. The New Albania Film Studio is located near the Dajti electric power station. It consists of three stone (brick?) buildings the largest of which is constructed in the form of a cross. This building houses the developing laboratories, sound and editing room. The second floor of this building has the control rooms (sic). The studio dubs in Soviet, Hungarian, Czechoslovak and Polish films. Soviet equipment, not in very good condition, is used. The studio has not produced any film nor is any contemplated because of a shortage of technicians. Director of the studio is Oreste Nesti. The studio employs approximately 60 people.
10. The Lenin Hydro-electric Plant is located east of Tirana. Power is provided by the Dajti River waters. Equipment at the plant is of Soviet make and it furnishes electric power to Tirana, Durres and Kavaia.

General Items

11. There are an estimated 5,000 Soviets in Albania, 4,000 of whom reside in Tirana together with their families.
12. Mehmet Shehu's brother-in-law, Adbullah (lnu) has returned from a two years stay in the Soviet Union where he studied for a degree in hydraulic engineering.

25X1

S-E-C-R-E-T

25X1